- (ii) means to hinder water evaporating from the skin.
- 16. (new) A composition as claimed in claim 14 wherein the means to retain water in the outer skin layer is an inorganic salt.
- 17. (new) A composition as claimed in claim 15 wherein the means to retain water in the outer skin layer is an inorganic salt.
- 18. (new) A composition as claimed in claim 14 wherein the means to hinder water evaporating from the skin is a hydrocarbon.
- 19. (new) A composition as claimed in claim 15 wherein the means to hinder water evaporating from the skin is a hydrocarbon.
- 20. (new) A composition as claimed in claim 16 wherein the means to hinder water evaporating from the skin is a hydrocarbon.
- 21. (new) A composition as claimed in claim 18 wherein the hydrocarbon comprises petrolatum, liquid paraffin, microcrystalline wax, solid paraffin, or a reaction product of paraffin and polyethylene.
- 22 (new) A composition as claimed in claim 19 wherein the hydrocarbon comprises petrolatum, liquid paraffin, microcrystalline wax, solid paraffin, or a reaction product of paraffin and polyethylene.
- 23. (new) A composition as claimed in claim 14 wherein the carrier vehicle further comprises
- (iii) liquid means to solubilize ascomycin.
- 24. (new) A composition as claimed in claim 15 wherein the carrier vehicle further comprises
- (iii) liquid means to solubilize 33-epi-chloro-33-desoxy-ascomycin.

- 25. (new) A composition as claimed in claim 23 wherein the liquid means comprises a wax, a fatty alcohol, a fatty acid, or fatty oil.
- 26. (new) A composition as claimed in claim 24 wherein the liquid means comprises a wax, a fatty alcohol, a fatty acid, or a fatty oil.
- 27. (new) Acomposition as claimed in claim 25 wherein the liquid means is isopropyl myristate.
- 28. (new) A composition as claimed in claim 26 wherein the liquid means is isopropyl myristate.
- 29. (new) A composition as claimed in claim 14 wherein the ascomptin is present in an amount of 0.1 to 2.0 % by weight of the composition.
- 30. (new) A composition as claimed in claim 15 wherein the 33-epi-chloro-33-desoxy-ascomycin is present in an amount of 0.1 to 2.0 % by weight of the composition.
- 31. (new) A composition as claimed in claim 14 wherein the means to retain water in the outer skin layer is present in an amount of 0.1 to 20% by weight of the composition.
- 32. (new) A composition as claimed in claim 15 wherein the means to retain water in the outer skin layer is present in an amount of 0.1 to 20% by weight of the composition.
- 33. (new) A method for enhancing penetration of an ascomycin through human skin comprising administering a composition according to claim 14 to said human skin.
- 34. (new) A method for enhancing penetration of 33-epi-chloro-33-desoxy-ascomycin through human skin comprising administering a composition according to claim 15 to said human skin.
- 35. (new) A method of treatment to an inflammatory or hyperproliferative skin disease comprising administering to skin of a patient in need of such treatment a composition according to claim 14.

- 36. (new) A method of treatment to an inflammatory or hyperproliferative skin disease comprising administering to skin of a patient in need of such treatment a composition according to claim 15.
- 37. (new) A method of treatment of cutaneous manifestations of immunologically mediated diseases comprising administering to skin of a patient in need of such treatment a composition according to claim 14.
- 38. (new) A method of treatment of cutaneous manifestations of immunologically mediated diseases comprising administering to skin of a patient in need of such treatment a composition according to claim 15.

Respectfully submitted,

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